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Figs. 3A-3E are diagrams

~~Fig. 3 is a diagram~~

Figs. 4A-4E are diagrams

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Fig. 7 is a diagram illustrating the concept of a local region.

Fig. 8 is a diagram illustrating the concept of a local region.

Fig. 10 is a diagram illustrating the concept of a local region

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~~Fig. 12 is a diagram illustrati~~

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Fig. 15 is a diagram illustrating the concept of a structure of an

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Fig. 17 is a graph illustrating a weighting factor.

Fig. 18 is a flow chart of image processing performed by the

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Several embodiments of the present invention will now be described in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings. Fig. 1 shows a block diagram of an imaging apparatus, which is an embodiment of the present invention. The configuration of the apparatus represents an embodiment of the apparatus in accordance with the present invention. The operation of the